intensification of patrolling, including riverine patrolling, by the Border Security Force and implementation of the Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF) and Mobile Task Force (MTF) schemes.

[English]

Transporters Racket

2237. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "A racket worth crores", appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the April 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the effective steps taken to check the thriving racket against the Traffic Police/Transporters in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the Delhi Police, no such organised racket has come to notice. Regular checking are conducted, inter-alia, by the Vigilance staff and action is taken against officials found involved in corrupt practices.

Settlement of Dues by Railways

2238. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending final settlement of the dues of the retired/deceased Railway employees for more than three months particularly the cases of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees in Ratlam Division of the Western Railway;

(b) the reasons for the delay in settlement of these cases;

(c) whether the responsibility for delay in settlement has been fixed; and

(d) the steps taken to make payment in all these cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Fake Notes

2239. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI opens a new front with fake notes", appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated May 19, 1994;

(b) if so, whether Border Security Force recovered a significant number of counterfeit notes in April, 1996 from Jatha of piligrims when they surrendered Pakistan currency before crossing the border;

(c) whether in April, 1996 Gujarat Police Crime Branch had also seized fake currency amounting to Rs. 35,000 from the narcotics smuggler;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government to the whole issue; and

(e) the concrete steps being taken to check the circulation of fake notes in the country by militant outfits and smugglers with a view to destabilising the Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to information received from the Government of Gujarat, 351 forged Indian currency notes of Rs. 100/- denomination amounting to Rs. 35,100/- were seized by the police in Kutch District on April 9 and 12, 1996.

(d) and (e). The State Governments/UT Administrations have been instructed to tighten the machinery to tackle the problem of counterfeiting of Indian currency. The RBI issues press releases from time to time to enable the public to distingush between genuine and fake currency notes. The CBI has also created a Special Unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant.

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

2240. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In response to the demand raised in Parliament, the Press and the travelling public for bringing about qualitative improvement in railway catering services, it is proposed to set up the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation. The objective is to upgrade and professionalise the catering